

SUPPORT FLORIDA'S 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE SYSTEM



Under the leadership of the Department of Children and Families, Florida is developing a new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline system that provides "Someone to Call, Someone to Respond, and Someplace Safe to Go."

The system includes the 988 Lifeline call centers, Mobile Response Teams and Central Receiving Facilities.

988 will become the FRONT DOOR for families and individuals seeking behavioral health assistance, providing easy access to care. Call-takers and Mobile Response Teams can provide de-escalation and linkage to services in local communities, avoiding Baker Acts and allowing police to respond to other types of emergencies.

FLMHAC urges support of the 988 system to ensure adequate and sustainable staffing and infrastructure, and to create a robust crisis response system in Florida.

END STEP-THERAPY, FAIL-FIRST PROTOCOLS FOR MEDICAID PATIENTS WITH SERIOUS MENTAL ILLNESS



FLMHAC urges support for the Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA) to eliminate step-therapy, fail-first protocols for Medicaid patients with SMI if the prescribing physician provides documentation that the drug product is medically necessary.

- Step therapy can result in dangerous delays and worsen symptoms.
- Once the best medications are determined by a prescriber, it is imperative that the patient has continued access to those prescriptions.
- Having patients try medications that are less effective can be catastrophic, possibly leading to hospitalization and trauma, and delaying recovery.
- Getting the right medication to the patient right away saves money by avoiding hospitalizations and trips to the emergency room.

FLMHAC is a nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)4 advocacy organization representing the voices of families and peers.

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